

Jackie Grisdale sets Bobcats all time made three-point record

By **COOPER WOODWARD**
Sports Editor

Quinnipiac women's basketball graduate student guard Jackie Grisdale set the Quinnipiac all-time record for made three pointers Saturday Feb. 28 in the Bobcats' 75-37 victory over the Canisius Golden Griffins. Grisdale ends the regular season with 226 three pointers made in her career and 65 made in the 2025-26 season.

In her final season as a Bobcat, Grisdale has appeared in all 34 games, averaging 12.5 points and 3.6 rebounds per game.

The record was previously held by former Bobcat forward Samantha Guastella '15, who ended her Bobcat career with 225 made longballs.



COOPER WOODWARD/CHRONICLE

Yale's gone stale

Why it's time the Bobcats favor a new rival

By **JAMES NOLAN**
Staff Writer

The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. The Dallas Cowboys and the Philadelphia Eagles. The Los Angeles Lakers and Boston Celtics. Rivalries are one of the premier driving forces in the sports world, and collegiate athletics are no different.

Whether it's Duke University and University of North Carolina in basketball or University of Michigan and The Ohio State University in football, those games are inherently more exciting due to the legendary rivalry, which raises the stakes.

In Hamden, the most widely accepted rivalry by the student body is the ever-anticipated ice hockey's "Battle of Whitney Avenue" between the Quinnipiac Bobcats and nearby Yale Bulldogs. In a recent

poll, conducted by The Chronicle, 62.7% of students named Yale University as Quinnipiac's biggest rival, which would seem to make sense. It is annually the most marketed and attended hockey game, but for a meager reason.

Yale is predominantly an Ivy League School, only overlapping conference-wise with Quinnipiac when it comes to men's and women's ice hockey, competing in the ECAC

conference. Women's ice hockey between the two schools remains rather competitive. Since 2021, the Bobcats are 9-3-2 against Yale's women's ice hockey.

On the flip side, Quinnipiac men's ice hockey has dominated the Bulldogs. In that same time-span, it is 11-0 when facing Yale. You would have to go back to February of 2018 to find the last time the Bobcats were defeated in the supposedly heralded matchup. The next loss after that would be in 2013, when the two squared off in the national championship.

Of course, that's where the Quinnipiac and Yale rivalry derives from. Two teams, sharing the same road, separated by 10 miles in Connecticut, with all of the hockey world's eyes on them. Yale would dominate the matchup, scoring four goals while blanking the Bobcats.

With that being said, 2013 was a long time ago. The Bobcats are long past due for a rival with a fresh spark, and one that sees them as an equal competitor.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that Yale's first focus is Harvard University, the two sharing a conference in every sport with a rich history dating back over a century. Every year, it is the last game of Ivy League football on the schedule, regardless of the two teams' records. The conference does not allow teams to compete in postseason play, nor does it even have a championship game to determine the conference title. Meaning that more often than not, "The Game" is the culmination of the season.

When you compare that to the relatively lackluster "Battle of Whitney Avenue," it's quite clear that the rivalry is incredibly lopsided. It's unfair to the student body to invest this energy into a one-sport, two-team matchup that is not even reciprocated by the so-called rival.

Quinnipiac's rival should really be the Fairfield University Stags.

Not only are they in-state, but they are also predominantly in-conference. Both the Bobcats and Stags are full members of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

There are 12 Quinnipiac sports that compete for a conventional conference championship: baseball, field hockey, men's basketball, men's ice hockey, men's lacrosse, men's soccer, softball, women's basketball, women's ice hockey, women's lacrosse, women's soccer and volleyball.

An extended version with more information can be found at qchronicle.com



TYLER MIGNAUZ/CHRONICLE

Ethan Wyttenbach stuns the nation in his freshman campaign

By **CLAIRE FRANKLAND**
Editor-in-Chief

No. 1 point scorer in NCAA men's ice hockey plays in no other than the Eastern College Athletic Conference. Not the Big 10 or National Collegiate Hockey Conference or Hockey East.

Quinnipiac freshman forward Ethan Wyttenbach, the 144th pick by the Calgary Flames in the fifth round of the 2025 NHL Draft has taken college hockey by storm, making him one of the most unexpected stars of the 2025-26 season.

"I think I'm surprising people in some aspects," Wyttenbach said.

NCAA men's hockey players are often older than typical college freshmen, with many opting to play junior hockey first, which serves as a pre-pro development league for players typically ranging from ages 16-20.

Wyttenbach is a true freshman, turning 19 on Feb. 10, which is more of an exception in college hockey than the majority.

"Coming in, a lot of the guys are a lot older than me, so it's definitely new faces," he said. "You don't cross paths with a lot of those guys, especially playing youth hockey and just things like that, because of the age gap."

For Wyttenbach, there's one main ingredient for his success this season: confidence. A feeling that has stemmed from his youth, through juniors and now to collegiate hockey.

"It's just a confidence thing... I think you can come in and you could be scared, and you can kind of have that mindset where maybe you might not be as good as you could be," Wyttenbach said. "I felt just kind of being myself, being confident, playing my game and just kind of coming in as quick as possible and being someone that could be leaned on in different situations was awesome."

Hockey has always been deeply rooted in

the Wyttenbach family. His father, Andrew, and two uncles played Division I ice hockey at Cornell University.

"Obviously, I saw my dad doing it, and as a kid, you always want to do what your dad does. And I think I kind of just fell in love with the game on my own and as I grew up, he was my coach," Ethan said.

Andrew, who worked in the marketing industry in New York City, left his job and bought Long Island Sports Hub, which he still owns to date, furthering Ethan's hockey development.

"I mean, it means the world to me," Ethan said. "You don't have to go rent ice. Don't have to find ice an hour away, just like little things like that that you might take for granted. But, when you think about it, put it kind of into perspective, it's super cool."

Long Island is not typically known for hockey, let alone NHL prospects. Of course, like any other place, it has its fair share of professional players like Boston Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy and New York Islanders forward Kyle Palmieri.

"I was obviously fortunate enough to where the hockey on Long Island maybe wasn't the biggest

thing. But I think kind of as I was growing up, it started getting bigger and just big names coming out of the Island," Ethan said. "It's kind of bringing hockey back to Long Island, in a sense."

The Roslyn, N.Y. native played 10 seasons with the Long Island Gulls, a youth program out of Syosset, N.Y.

The Gulls have a small but known history of athletes who have competed for their organization, including McAvoy and New York Rangers defenseman Adam Fox. Ethan's current teammate senior forward Jeremy Wilmer and Quinnipiac commits center Jack Genovese and forward Nicolas Sykora also played for the organization.

"Some of the best years of my life playing hockey, and definitely what contributed to where I am right now, couldn't be more happy that I'm kind of the next wave of players," Ethan said.

During his time with the Gulls, Ethan's team won the 2024 Chipotle-USA Hockey Youth Tier I 16U National Championship in Las Vegas, shutting out their opponent 2-0.

Ethan would contribute to his team's success in the tournament, tallying four goals and one assist, including the overtime winner in the semifinals to send his squad to the championship game.

"We won the national championship in Vegas, actually. So the plan this year is obviously to get to Vegas, and I think winning a national championship in Vegas again would be pretty cool," Ethan said.

If Quinnipiac reaches the NCAA Tournament and punches a ticket to the Frozen Four, Wyttenbach would have his second opportunity in Vegas to hoist a national championship trophy, in what could be a full-circle moment

for the kid from Long Island.

Ethan would attend Portledge School from eighth to 11th grade, where he would ultimately commit to Quinnipiac at 15 years old.

"He finishes plays. I talk about him a lot," head coach Rand Pecknold said. "There's a lot of players at our level that create a lot of offense and a lot of scoring chances. And then he's got that next gear, and he has that ability to finish those chances. He's just next level, with not just the goal scoring but also the passes, the timing and he just finishes plays."

When it came time for his senior year of high school, hockey would take him in a different direction. Ethan took his final year of high school online and played junior hockey in the USHL for the Sioux Falls Stampede. Consequently, the same organization where his teammate, sophomore forward Chris Pelosi, played the season prior.

"Playing the USHL, which is kind of this next stepping stone for every young kid who plays hockey in the States, that was obviously super cool last year," Ethan said. "Meeting new people and getting to play in that league, which was obviously awesome and super special."

During his lone season with the Stampede, he recorded 24 goals, leading the squad, and 27 assists in 44 games played.

In April, Ethan was awarded The Gaudreau Award — established in 2025 to honor the legacy of brothers Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau — making him the inaugural winner.

Ethan would trade in South Dakota for Connecticut to kick-start his first season of collegiate hockey. And just like everything else, his confidence shone.

An extended version with more information can be found at qchronicle.com



QUINNIPAC/CHRONICLE